GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:696
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2002
LONG TERM STABLE FERTILIZER POLICY
N.T. SHANMUGAM

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations for a stable and conducive fertilizer policy for meeting the full needs of growing population at the acceptable nutrition level;

(b) if so, whether the absence of such a policy has resulted in zero investment in this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to have a long term stable fertilizer policy;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the fertilizer policy is likely to be finalised?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) to (f) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 696 FOR ANSWER ON 14.5.2002

(a) to (f): Suggestions have been received from various stakeholders regarding formulation of a long term fertilizer policy. Government is conscious and fully aware of the importance of fertilizer in meeting the requirements of foodgrains production for the growing population of the country. Government monitors at regular intervals the demand and supply position of fertilizers and ensures that fertilizer is available in adequate quantity and at reasonable price to all farmers in the country.

A draft outline of the policy was prepared and circulated amongst concerned stakeholders such as fertilizer industry, farmers, State Governments, Economists etc. to invite their views/suggestions. The draft policy has also been discussed in seminars/workshops held in different parts of the country. The draft policy has evoked very meaningful debate and the Department of Fertilizers has received a number of suggestions/comments on the proposals made in the draft policy paper.

A committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (Fertilizers) to examine the views and suggestions received in response to draft long term fertilizer policy. As there are some issues like formulation of new pricing policy for urea units which will have a bearing on long term fertilizer policy and also sector reform, finalisation of long term fertilizer policy has to wait till a decision is taken on new pricing policy for urea units.